

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT[441]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 234.6(4), the Department of Human Services amends Chapter 47, “Diversion Initiatives,” Iowa Administrative Code.

The amendments:

- Change the name of the Promoting Healthy Marriage program to Promoting Awareness of the Benefits of a Healthy Marriage. The new name more accurately reflects the program’s purpose, which is to promote awareness of the benefits of a healthy marriage.
- Align the implementation of annual adjustments to the federal poverty guidelines for the program with the annual adjustments to income and allotment limits for the Food Assistance program. This change provides for consistent eligibility determination both for households that are categorically eligible for Food Assistance due to eligibility for the Promoting Awareness of the Benefits of a Healthy Marriage program and for the relatively few households that cannot meet categorical eligibility criteria.

These amendments do not provide for waivers in specified situations. Requests for the waiver of any rule may be submitted under the Department’s general rule on exceptions at 441—1.8(17A,217).

Notice of Intended Action on these amendments was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on November 17, 2010, as **ARC 9225B**. The Department received no comments on the Notice of Intended Action. These amendments are identical to the amendments published under Notice of Intended Action.

The Council on Human Services adopted these amendments on January 12, 2011.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6.

These amendments shall become effective on April 1, 2011.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend **441—Chapter 47**, Division I title and preamble, as follows:

DIVISION I
PROMOTING AWARENESS OF THE BENEFITS OF A HEALTHY MARRIAGE

PREAMBLE

These rules implement the Iowa promoting awareness of the benefits of a healthy marriage program. This program uses federal funds from the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant to provide information to certain households about the benefits of a healthy and stable marriage. Eligibility for this program also establishes categorical eligibility for the Iowa food assistance program under 441—Chapter 65.

ITEM 2. Amend rules 441—47.1(234) and 441—47.2(234) as follows:

441—47.1(234) Eligibility criteria. Eligibility for the promoting awareness of the benefits of a healthy marriage program is always determined in conjunction with determination of eligibility for the food assistance program under 441—Chapter 65.

47.1(1) Application. There is no separate application for the ~~promoting healthy marriage~~ program. Eligibility for the program is determined whenever the department determines a household’s eligibility for food assistance.

47.1(2) Resources. There is no asset test for the ~~promoting healthy marriage~~ program.

47.1(3) Income. The household’s gross countable monthly income determined according to rule 441—65.29(234) must be less than or equal to 160 percent of the current federal poverty guidelines for the household size. The income eligibility limits as described in this subrule are revised each October 1 to reflect the annual adjustment to the federal poverty guidelines.

47.1(4) Otherwise eligible for food assistance. The household must meet all eligibility criteria for the food assistance program except as provided in this rule. A household that includes a member who

is currently disqualified from ~~the food assistance program~~ due to an intentional program violation is not eligible for the ~~promoting healthy marriage~~ program.

47.1(5) *Minimum food assistance benefit.* The household must be eligible for a monthly food assistance benefit greater than zero. Households with a monthly food assistance benefit of zero are not eligible for the ~~promoting healthy marriage~~ program.

441—47.2(234) Notice and eligibility period. A household that meets all of the eligibility criteria in rule 441—47.1(234) shall receive written notice of its eligibility for the promoting awareness of the benefits of a healthy marriage program.

47.2(1) No change.

47.2(2) *Eligibility period.* A household that is determined eligible for the ~~promoting healthy marriage~~ program shall remain eligible for the program until the earlier of the following events:

a. and *b.* No change.

[Filed 1/12/11, effective 4/1/11]

[Published 2/9/11]

EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 2/9/11.